

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries



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Montana Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries 2000

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Introduction

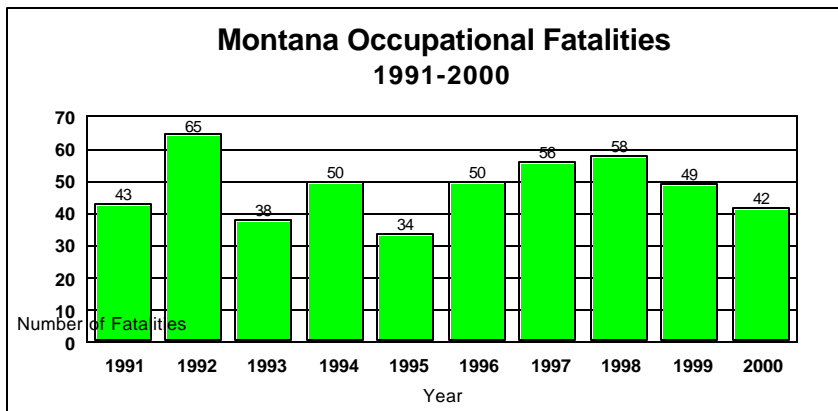
Thousands of workers in Montana are injured each year in work-related accidents. Some of these result in death. Many of the accidents could have been avoided if the employers and employees involved took proper safety measures to prevent them.

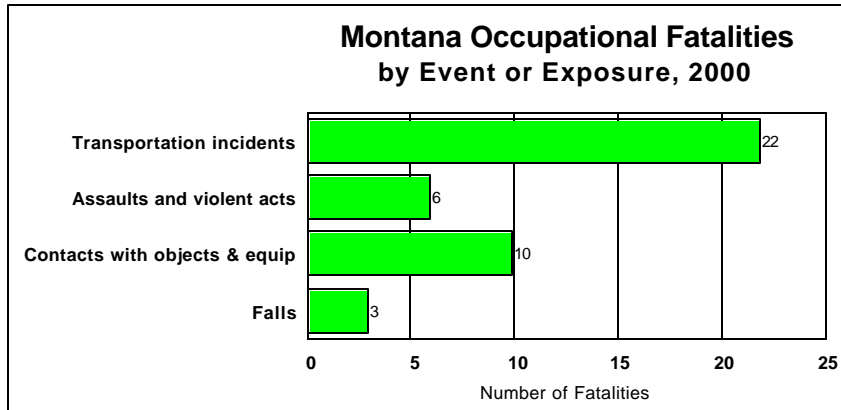
This report provides information gathered by the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program, Research and Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry, on fatal occupational accidents that occurred in Montana during 2000. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, and Title 29, Part 1904 of the Code of Federal Regulations state:

Within 48 hours after the occurrence of an employment accident which is fatal to one or more employees, or which results in hospitalization of five or more employees, the employer of any employees so injured or killed shall report the accident either orally or in writing to the nearest office of the Area Director of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. The reporting may be by telephone or telegraph. The report shall relate the circumstances of the accident, the number of fatalities, and the extent of any injuries. The Area Director may require such additional reports in writing or otherwise as they deem necessary, concerning the accident.

Summary

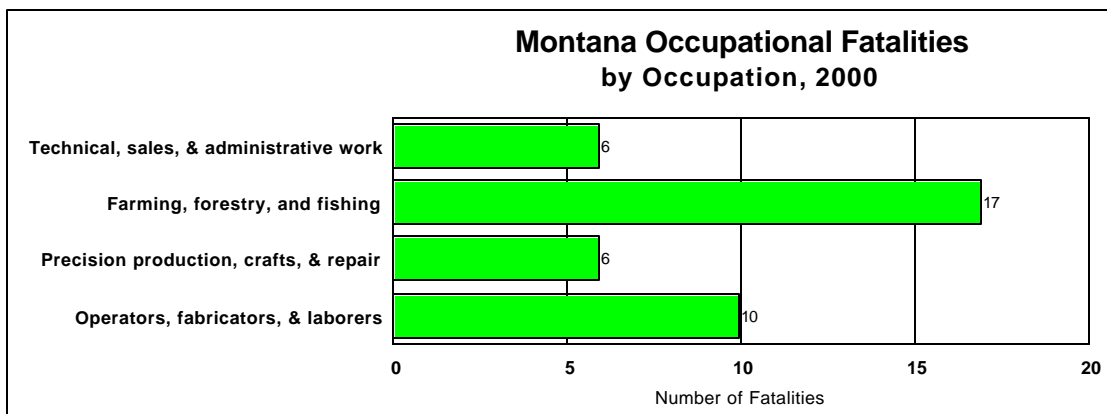
Overall, there were a total of 42 job-related fatalities in Montana in 2000. The following charts show different profiles of these deaths.





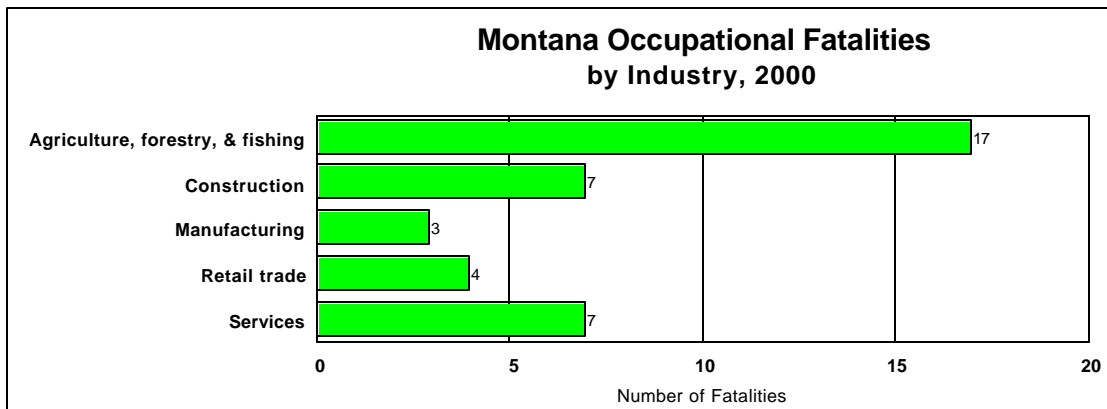
Total Number of Fatalities in 2000 -- 42

Totals include data for Event or Exposures not shown separately, that do not meet publication criteria.



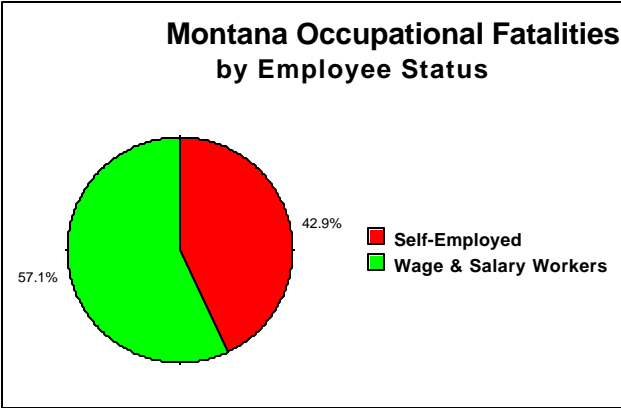
Total Number of Fatalities in 2000 -- 42

Totals include data for Occupations not shown separately, that do not meet publication criteria.

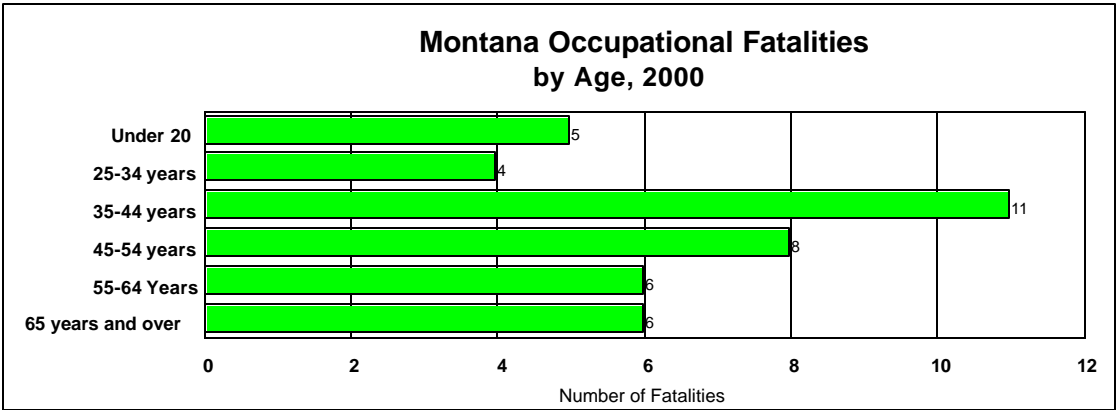


Total Number of Fatalities in 2000 -- 42

Totals include data for Industries not shown separately, that do not meet publication criteria.



Total Number of Fatalities in 2000 -- 42



Total Number of Fatalities in 2000 -- 42

Totals include data for Age not shown separately, that do not meet publication criteria.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, 2000

Montana

| Event ¹ | Fatalities | |
|---|------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent |
| Total | 42 | 100 |
| Transportation incidents | 22 | 52 |
| Highway | 12 | 29 |
| Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment | 5 | 12 |
| Moving in intersection | 4 | 10 |
| Noncollision | 6 | 14 |
| Jack-knifed or overturned--no collision | 6 | 14 |
| Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises) | 4 | 10 |
| Noncollision accident | 4 | 10 |
| Overturned | 3 | 7 |
| Assaults and violent acts | 6 | 14 |
| Suicide, self-inflicted injury | 5 | 12 |
| Contact with objects and equipment | 10 | 24 |
| Struck by object | 5 | 12 |
| Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects ... | 3 | 7 |
| Falls | 3 | 7 |
| Fall to lower level | 3 | 7 |

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by selected characteristics, 2000

Montana

| Worker characteristics | Fatalities | |
|--|------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent |
| Total | 42 | 100 |
| Employee status | | |
| Wage and salary workers ¹ | 24 | 57 |
| Self-employed ² | 18 | 43 |
| Sex | | |
| Men | 40 | 95 |
| Age | | |
| Under 20 years | 5 | 12 |
| 25 to 34 years | 4 | 10 |
| 35 to 44 years | 11 | 26 |
| 45 to 54 years | 8 | 19 |
| 55 to 64 years | 6 | 14 |
| 65 years and over | 6 | 14 |
| Race | | |
| White | 42 | 100 |

¹ May include volunteers and other workers receiving compensation.

² Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation, 2000

Montana

| Occupation ¹ | Fatalities | |
|---|------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent |
| Total | 42 | 100 |
| Technical, sales, and administrative support | 6 | 14 |
| Farming, forestry, and fishing | 17 | 40 |
| Farming operators and managers | 7 | 17 |
| Farmers, except horticultural | 5 | 12 |
| Other agricultural and related occupations | 10 | 24 |
| Farm occupations, except managerial | 10 | 24 |
| Farm workers | 10 | 24 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair | 6 | 14 |
| Mechanics and repairers | 3 | 7 |
| Mechanics and repairers, except supervisors | 3 | 7 |
| Operators, fabricators, and laborers | 10 | 24 |
| Transportation and material moving occupations | 7 | 17 |
| Motor vehicle operators | 4 | 10 |
| Truck drivers | 4 | 10 |

¹ Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, 2000

Montana

| Industry ¹ | Fatalities | |
|--|------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent |
| Total | 42 | 100 |
| Private industry | 42 | 100 |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 17 | 40 |
| Agricultural production - crops | 9 | 21 |
| Field crops, except cash grains | 9 | 21 |
| Field crops, except grains, n.e.c. | 9 | 21 |
| Agricultural production - livestock | 8 | 19 |
| Livestock, except dairy and poultry | 7 | 17 |
| Beef cattle, except feedlots | 6 | 14 |
| Construction | 7 | 17 |
| Special trade contractors | 6 | 14 |
| Miscellaneous special trade contractors | 4 | 10 |
| Manufacturing | 3 | 7 |
| Retail trade | 4 | 10 |
| Automotive dealers and service stations | 3 | 7 |
| Services | 7 | 17 |

¹ Classified according to the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987*.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Appendix B—Background of the Program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Safety and Health Statistics Program, provides the most complete count of fatal work injuries available because it uses diverse state and federal data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used, and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

The fatality census is a federal/state cooperative program, which is conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. In Montana, the Research and Analysis Bureau of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry collects the data in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Another BLS program, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, profiles worker and case characteristics of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses that result in lost work time and presents frequency counts and incidence rates by industry. Copies of the 1999 Montana report on nonfatal injuries and illnesses are available from the Research and Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry by calling 1-800-541-3904. For additional labor market information, access the Montana Department of Labor's Research & Analysis Bureau website at <http://rad.dli.state.mt.us>.

National data on occupational injuries and fatalities can be obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics by calling (202) 606-6179. For additional national data, access the BLS World Wide Web Internet site at <http://www.bls.gov/oshhome.htm>. To request a copy of BLS Report 934, which includes several articles and highlights 2000 fatality data, e-mail your address to CFOIstaff@bls.gov or write to Bureau of Labor Statistics; 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Room 3180; Washington, D.C. 20212.

Appendix C—Technical Notes

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2000 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiations, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses are not reported in the BLS census and are excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work make identification of a universe problematic.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources, including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports, as well as news reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities

Because some state laws and regulations prohibit enumerators from contacting the next of kin, it was not possible to independently verify work relationship (whether a fatality is job related) for some fatal work injuries in 2000; however, the information on the initiating source document for these cases was sufficient to determine that the incident was likely to be job related. Data for these fatalities, which primarily affected self-employed workers, are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries counts. A few fatalities were not included because the initiating source document had insufficient information to determine work relationship, which could not be verified by either an independent source document or a follow-up questionnaire.

States may identify additional fatal work injuries after data collection closeout for a reference year. In addition, other fatalities excluded from the published count because of insufficient information to determine work relationship may subsequently be verified as work related. States have up to one year to update their initial published state counts. This procedure ensures that fatality data are disseminated as quickly as possible and that no legitimate case is excluded from the counts. Thus, each year's report should be considered preliminary until the next year's data are issued. Increases in the published counts of national data based on additional information have averaged fewer than 100 fatalities per year or less than 1.5 percent of the total.

Federal/State agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

Several federal and state agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in states with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of America's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation. At the national level, fatalities occurring in activities regulated by federal agencies other than OSHA accounted for about 15 percent of the fatal work injuries in 2000.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any federal or state agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, who accounted for about 20 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about one percent of the fatalities; and state and local government employees in states without OSHA approved safety programs, who accounted for about three percent. (Approximately one-half of the states have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover state and local government employees.)